

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected as follows. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,919,824 to *Lee*; and Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Lee* in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0077156 to *Smethers*.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are the pending independent claims. Claims 1 and 5 were rejected in view of the combination of *Lee* and *Smethers*, and Claim 6 as being anticipated by *Lee*.

Lee discloses a circular switching of input modes according to the number of times a mode switching button (20) is pressed, as is generally used in a mobile phone. See Col. 5, lines 2-11, "Switching operations among the numeral mode, the alphabet character mode and the special character mode are achieved by the mode switching button 20. That is, the numeral mode is initially set, and if a user presses the mode switching button 20 once, the input mode is switched to the alphabet character mode. If the user presses the button 20 one more time, the input mode is switched to the special character mode. If the user presses the button 20 a third time, the input mode is switched to the initial numeral mode."

In contrast, Claim 5 of the present invention recites changing a character input mode when a temporary mode conversion key is pressed and returning the character input mode to the previously set mode when the temporary mode conversion key is released.

In addition, *Lee* only discloses a plurality of character codes assigned to each input button. *Lee* fails to disclose reading out character codes corresponding to a previously set character input mode and a temporary character mode from a memory according to a plurality of keys input, as in Claim 1 of the present invention.

Further, in *Lee* characters are input according to pressing of selection-indication buttons 17-19, not according to pressing of the buttons to which a character is assigned. In contrast, in the present invention characters are input according to the pressing of the keys to which a character code is assigned. That is, in the present invention keys pressed for character input are identical with the keys to which a character is assigned.

Smethers was cited in view of an alleged failure by *Lee* to disclose "a memory for storing character codes." (Office Action, page 4.) *Smethers*, however, does not cure the deficiency of *Lee* of failing to disclose a memory for storing different character codes in each of the plurality of keys input.

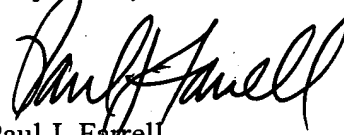
Accordingly, the combination of *Lee* and *Smethers* fails to disclose or suggest each of the recitations of Claims 1 and 5.

Claim 6 contains recitations similar to Claim 5, and is believed to be patentability distinguishable over *Lee*.

In regard to new Claim 7, when a user is in the middle of inputting Korean characters, the present invention makes it possible to input upper case characters by pushing a first temporary mode conversion key, such as a volume-up key attached to a side of the mobile terminal, and to input lower case characters by pushing a second temporary mode conversion key, such as a volume-down key.

All of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-5 and 7, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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